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AGRICULTURAL PLANNING IN NEW ENGLAND

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- MIDDAUGH: And a tough problem it is. The agricultural planning committees have recommended that the cooperating agencies take some positive steps in solving it. . . and the extension services and the State employment services are giving attention to it right now. Surveys have been made of the available supply of farm labor and of labor requirements for this year's harvests. In each New England State the State employment services have designated members of their staffs as farm labor placement supervisors.
- FLANNING: In Connecticut and Massachusetts, Wes, I understand the State employment services prepared classified lists of school youth who were available for farm work this summer. And that people from these lists were available to farmers who needed help.
- MIDDAUGH: Yes. . . More than fifty percent of the tobacco crop this year was harvested in that way. . . More than six thousand high school boys and girls in Connecticut alone helped with the harvest. In some cases this fall, the opening of the high schools is to be postponed in order to help supply labor for the harvests. . . benefiting the farmers and providing healthful employment and good wages for the youth.
- FLANNING: But the dairy industry, Wes. Many of the dairymen in New England have lost their year-round hired hands to the defense industries.
- MIDDAUGH: As yet, that situation has not seriously affected the production of milk. Milk production in New England has been larger this year than last. Prices are up, but the cost of production also is up. Farm wages have been increased. Arrangements have been made in some cases for occupational deferment of farm labor from Selective Service, but of course the farmers simply can't compete with the industrial wages now being offered.
- FLANNING: Maybe not. . . But as you were saying this morning, Wes, labor needs to consider more than the bare wages in industry. . . On the farm there are the non-cash items received in addition to wages. . . housing and food.
- MIDDAUGH: And as every industrial worker knows, those two items alone. . . housing and food. . . leave precious little out of an industrial pay check. . . The farm labor situation is a problem. . . and an increasing one. . . not only as to dairy production, but as to poultry and eggs as well. Right now, the potato growers. . . especially in Maine. . . are concerned over the supply of labor to harvest this year's crop. . . Large quantities

of truck crops are to be harvested. . . and then there'll be the picking of this year's crop of apples.

FLANNING: Going back to the dairy situation, Wes. . . Can you tell us what is being done with regard to the supply of feed grains for this fall and winter?

MIDDAUGH: We had a pretty serious drought situation in parts of the Northeast this season. In some cases the first cutting of hay was fifty percent smaller than on the same farms last year. The second cutting came through in somewhat better condition. Pastures were so poor in some areas the farmers were compelled to supplement pastures with feed.

FLANNING: But according to the Government reports, there's plenty of grain as a national supply situation. . .

MIDDAUGH: There's plenty of grain. . . but the problem will be how to get that grain into New England in view of the increased use of transportation for munitions and other defense items. . . As one measure of protection, the Commodity Credit Corporation has arranged for the storage of ten and a half million bushels of corn in terminal warehouses at Albany. . . Buffalo. . . Ogdensburg. . . Philadelphia. . . and Baltimore.

FLANNING: You think that transportation priorities will be needed to get grain into New England?

MIDDAUGH: Possibly so. . . Or some plan worked out for the storing of grain on farms now against next winter's needs. That problem is being attacked now by the planning committees and the cooperating agencies.

FLANNING: But wasn't there also a statement by the Commodity Credit Corporation regarding grain storage on the farms in New England?

MIDDAUGH: Yes, the Commodity Credit Corporation and the Farm Credit Administration will cooperate with farmer cooperatives such as the Eastern States Farmers Exchange, in the storage of milled feed on members' farms. The GLF in New York is cooperating in this program. The Planning Committees in the six New England States also are attacking this problem as to feed grain supplies. It's been suggested that arrangements similar to those in New York should be made with the Eastern States and other farmer cooperative organizations.

FLANNING: Now, Wes, let's consider some of the longer-time adjustments upon which the planning committees in New England are working.

FLEMING: Well, I see our radio time is up and to the listeners on the Colonial Network I should explain that this discussion of problems in New England. . . and of the way in which the agricultural planning committees are attacking them. . . is the first of a series on agricultural planning in New England. Next Wednesday at this same time we'll have Dr. Basil E. Gilbert who is the BAE Representative for Rhode Island and Acting Director of the Rhode Island Experiment Station, to discuss some of the economic and social problems in that State. . . and of the activities of the planning, research, and action agencies in Rhode Island.

Radio Script, Colonial Network, September 10, by Phil Fleming of the New England Radio Service, and Dr. Basil E. Gilbert, Rhode Island representative of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, U. S. Department of Agriculture.

AGRICULTURAL PLANNING IN RHODE ISLAND

FLEMING: Last Wednesday at this time, Mr. Wessels Middaugh of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, discussed some of the activities of the agricultural planning committees in New England. . . and of the way in which these committees and cooperating agencies are attacking the agricultural problems in this region. He dealt with the farm labor situation. . . and with the feed situation. And he told about the pasture improvement program in New Hampshire and Connecticut. . . Today, Dr. Basil E. Gilbert. . . who is the Bureau of Agricultural Economics representative for Rhode Island, as well as Acting Director of the Rhode Island Experiment Station. . . is here to discuss the work of agricultural planning in Rhode Island. . . Dr. Gilbert, you were saying that some of the township agricultural planning committees in Rhode Island will be meeting this month?

GILBERT: The township committees. . . as you know. . . are composed entirely of farm men and women. . . These committees all over the State will be meeting this fall to consider their local problems. . . There will also be the county agricultural planning committees, and county State committees. These committees. . . at the county and State levels. . . include technical advisers of the Rhode Island Agricultural Experiment Station and Extension Service. . . administrative representatives of the various research and action agencies of the United States Department of Agriculture. . . and representatives of a number of other cooperating agencies in Rhode Island.

FLEMING: That sounds as though you have pretty nearly everyone interested in agriculture. . . in Rhode Island. . . cooperating in this agricultural planning program.

GILBERT: Not everyone. . . but a good many people and agencies. . . all dealing with agricultural conditions that concern not only the farm people. . . but the town and city people as well. . .

FLEMING: Dr. Gilbert. . . we've been hearing a good deal about the

food-for-defense program. . . and especially about the effort that's being made to increase the production of dairy and poultry products. I'm wondering how the farmers in Rhode Island fit into that picture.

GILBERT: Of course, Phil, you understand that Rhode Island is a deficit-producing State. . . We don't produce enough food for our own commercial needs. . . A big volume of milk and eggs is shipped in from other parts of New England. Even so, the production of milk and eggs in Rhode Island has been increased this year.

FLEMING: And I've seen some figures showing increases in garden crops.

GILBERT: Yes. . . And in that connection there's a rather significant development in Rhode Island. . . There's been a considerable increase in part-time farming in recent years. . . by factory people moving out onto small pieces of ground. . . producing garden crops. . . small fruits. . . poultry and eggs.

FLEMING: Meaning better nutrition for the factory worker, of course. . . but competition with the commercial farmer.

GILBERT: Better nutrition, yes. . . But as to the competition, no. Many of the planning committees agree that since the commercial farmers don't produce all of the food needed by our big industrial population, there's no competition from part-time farming.

FLEMING: But there's another side to this part-time farming development, as I understand it. . . And that is, its effect on your public institutions. . . your schools and libraries. . . your hospitals and other service institutions.

GILBERT: Naturally, as there is a shift in population. . . as a result of part-time farming or any other cause. . . some adjustments are needed in public service. . . Ways must be found to meet the increasing cost of public service. . . and particularly, the increased cost of maintaining schools and highways. This subject of equitable distribution of the tax load will be a lively topic of debate at the planning meetings this fall and winter.

FLEMING: Now, these township planning committees. . . they make specific recommendations for research and action by the various local, county, and other agencies?

GILBERT: Growing out of the planning discussion last year, a unified

county report was developed for Washington County. In that report, eight lines of action are recommended. . . They include provisions for the maintenance and improvement of soil fertility under the Agricultural Conservation Programs. . . the adjustments needed in our agriculture to meet present and future requirements for farm and forest products. . . and in broader aspect the development of a long-time land-use program.

Anything on highways?

A secondary road program was developed by the township and county committees, and approved by the State Land-Use Planning Committee.

How about woodlands?

There are large forested areas in the western part of the county. . . Many people believe that these areas should be developed for recreational purposes.

And such a development, of course, would involve the conservation of forests and wildlife.

In fact, the county committee passed a resolution in that connection urging a revision of the fish and game laws. . . Various projects are also under way, dealing with the development and management of farm and township woodlots.

FLEMING: Of course, Dr. Gilbert, in a brief radio broadcast we can cover only some of the highlights. . . But now, let's take a brief look at Providence County.

GILBERT: In Providence County, also, the principal farm enterprise is dairying. . . Among other recommendations the township committees have urged that studies be made of present milk routes and their efficiency. . . or lack of efficiency, from the standpoint of producers and consumers. . . They urged that studies be made of the cooperative buying of hay by dairymen, particularly with regard to the costs of transportation.

FLEMING: Except for detail, I suppose you have pretty much the same problems in Providence as in Washington County. . . dealing with the increase in part-time farming. . . the cost and maintenance of schools and highways. . . the protection of forests and the management of woodlots.

GILBERT: Yes, and as to the adjustments needed to improve the economic

and social conditions of our low-income farmers. To deal with those problems requires the cooperative action of all the various research, action, and administrative agencies. . . at the county, the State, and the Federal levels.

FLEMING:

As you've indicated, Dr. Gilbert, some of the purely local problems are being worked out by the local people themselves. . . but there are larger situations that require the technical and administrative help of the various public agencies which have been set up for this purpose. . . I'm thinking now of the report that your State Land-Use Committee prepared in connection with the national defense program.

GILBERT:

In that report the State Committee emphasized the need for improving the dietary standards of both the rural and urban people, the maintenance of adequate food supplies for this purpose, and the adjustments required in agricultural production and marketing in the best interests of producers and consumers. . . Other subjects covered by the report included the acquisition of land by defense agencies and the purchasing of farm products by the Army and Navy. . . It was recommended, for example, that flying fields should be located, insofar as possible, on land not suitable for agriculture. As you know, our agricultural areas already are pretty limited. Only a third of all the land in Rhode Island is adapted for agricultural use.

FLEMING:

Thank you, Dr. Gilbert, for this discussion of agricultural planning in Rhode Island. . . And for the listeners on the Colonial Network, this talk with Dr. Gilbert was the second of a series of broadcasts on agricultural planning in New England. Next Wednesday at this same time, Mr. Harry C. Woodworth, who is the BAE representative for New Hampshire will discuss some of the economic and social problems in that State. . . and of the activities of the planning, research, and action agencies in New Hampshire.

Radio Script, Colonial Network, September 17, by Phil Fleming of the New England Radio News Service and Harry C. Woodworth, New Hampshire representative of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, U. S. Department of Agriculture.

AGRICULTURAL PLANNING IN NEW HAMPSHIRE

- FLEMING: Today we have Chapter Three in our series of discussions on Agricultural Planning in New England. . . Today we go to New Hampshire. . . or rather, New Hampshire comes to us, in the person of Harry C. Woodworth who is the Bureau of Agricultural Economics representative for the State. Mr. Woodworth, last week Dr. Gilbert told us about some of the things the agricultural planning committee and the cooperating action agencies have been doing in Rhode Island dealing with the food-for-defense program, the farm part-time farming in Rhode Island, the construction and maintenance of highways, the management of woodlands in Rhode Island. . . I suppose that your planning committee in New Hampshire also will begin their meetings this month.
- WOODWORTH: Yes, we have a pretty full schedule of meetings planned at the township, county, and State levels for this winter. In the last three years we've had more than 100 meetings at these various levels of rural and urban planning dealing with a number of problems - agricultural planning to meet changing physical and economic conditions, soil conservation, pasture improvement, farm security, the development and management of woodlots, and so on.
- FLEMING: Of course there's a good deal of interest right now in the food-for-defense program. . . in increasing the production of milk and eggs for our own needs of better nutrition and of concentrated foods for export to Britain.
- WOODWORTH: Our contribution to that is about the same as in New England generally this season. . . Our output of both milk and eggs has been a little larger this season. About half of the milk produced in New Hampshire is shipped to Boston and to cities in northern Massachusetts. We ship out large quantities of poultry and eggs.
- FLEMING: Prices have been pretty good this season.

CODWORTH: Yes, and the costs of production have been higher. We had to supplement pastures with feed this summer. And farm wages have gone up.

TEBING: That situation also has been pretty general throughout New England this season, and it's been of concern to many of the planning, research and action agencies engaged in finding and classifying available labor, and working out arrangements so that New England dairy and poultry men will have adequate supplies of feed this fall and winter.

CODWORTH: The various Federal and State agencies in New Hampshire have been working on that feed supply problem. . . and for a long-time program we've been doing a good deal, too, on pasture improvement.

TEBING: Harvests for tomorrow?

CODWORTH: Yes, trying to do things now through agricultural conservation programs that will assure fertility for tomorrow. We bring back the soil fertility that has been lost through more than a century of cropping and burning.

TEBING: That special pasture improvement program - that's principally in Belknap County?

CODWORTH: In Coos County, too. In Belknap, more than 200 have enrolled in the pasture improvement program. And in Coos County, some 250 farmers are improving about 1,000 acres of pasture land, this season.

TEBING: Putting lime and superphosphate on the land.

CODWORTH: Lime and super. . . For generations the pastures in southern New England have been deteriorating. Practically nothing was done to replace the mineral elements being shipped to town and city in every can of milk. The point has been reached where many farmers have to feed hay even at the height of the pasture season. . . In extreme cases the pastures are only exercise grounds.

TEBING: No wonder the cost of milk production goes up.

Now, with the help of the agricultural experiment and conservation agencies, a ten-year pasture improvement program is underway in Belknap and Coos Counties to increase the efficiency, and reduce the costs. . . of milk production. We'd like to extend that program all over the State of New Hampshire.

- ELLIOTT: That would mean a pasture improvement program on nearly 5,000 farms.
- WOODWORTH: 5,000 is the number of commercial dairy farms in our State. In addition, on approximately 7,500 farms, the keeping of one or two cows for milk production for the home would be facilitated.
- ELLIOTT: That's a pretty ambitious program.
- WOODWORTH: Yes, but it would mean the improvement of 150,000 acres of pasture on the commercial dairy farms, and about 30,000 acres on the remainder. Such a program would release 100,000 acres of present poor pasture for the production of timber and it would help to avoid damage by livestock in 500,000 acres of woodland now in pastures.
- ELLIOTT: You'd need plenty of help from the various research and advisory agencies.
- WOODWORTH: Help from practically all of them - the Agricultural Adjustment Administration and the Farm Security Administration, the Soil Conservation Service, the Forestry Service, the State Forestry Department, and the Extension Service in planning and implementing the program. We'd like to have such a program started during the coming year.
- ELLIOTT: You mentioned the production of timber. . . You have some extensive timberlands in New Hampshire.
- WOODWORTH: More than 80 percent of the total land area of New Hampshire is woodland. There was a time when the forests in New Hampshire were an unrivalled source of income. But that isn't true today. For one reason or another - largely because of exploitation and mismanagement - the quality of the forests has deteriorated. It's become increasingly difficult to locate timber supplies to maintain our existing wood-using industries.
- ELLIOTT: But the forests could be brought back by right management.
- WOODWORTH: Yes. But there are many ramifications of this forestry problem. . . questions of public and private ownership. . . questions of taxation. . . questions. . .
- ELLIOTT: (interrupting) Taxation?
- WOODWORTH: Yes. Under present policy there's practically no inducement for a man to let his timber grow to proper marketable

size - to harvest his timber as he would a crop. In that connection the State planning committee is urging big and little timber owners alike to renew their efforts to obtain more suitable forest tax legislation.

FLEMING: Well, I can see you do have a problem there.

WOODWORTH: Basically, we need an intensive educational campaign in the State to make certain that everyone - farm and city people alike - will appreciate the need for a long-time forestry program that will stabilize employment and yield products, profit and revenue in the years to come instead of taking them all at one fell swoop.

FLEMING: Now Mr. Woodworth, in Harvests for Tomorrow there was a sequence showing the bad economic and social effects of the destruction of the forests and the loss of soil fertility.

WOODWORTH: Yes, that's a part of what we call the declining areas problem - areas where people have been literally stranded in a declining agricultural and forestry industry. Many isolated areas that formerly offered a fair opportunity for a family to make a living have now fallen into disuse.

FLEMING: Areas that are probably unable to contribute much to the construction and maintenance of highways, or to educational and other service institutions.

WOODWORTH: At the moment, the real significance of that problem may be somewhat obscured by the increase in industrial activity under national defense programs which are offering employment opportunities to many farm people. But it will become prominent again during the post-war period, and we should be planning now the adjustments that will be needed at that time.

FLEMING: Planning for rural works programs, for example, to give work to farm people released from industrial employment for national defense.

WOODWORTH: Possibly. . . Meanwhile, some specific lines of action are being followed to help prevent the expansion of isolated areas.

FLEMING: Can you give some examples of that?

WOODWORTH: An outstanding example is in the town of Strafford. The town has two isolated areas where farming has disappeared, leaving behind a few scattered rural residents. Local farmers agree that these sections are unsuited to commercial

agriculture. The locations are also undesirable for residential or part-time farming use. The public cost for road service and school transportation is excessive.

FLEMING: That sets the scene.

WOODWORTH: Local people presented the problem at the community land use committee meeting. The town meeting was asked to appoint a committee to study the possibilities of rural zoning as a solution. This committee in turn recommended that steps be taken to legalize the establishment of a rural zoning ordinance. While the town meeting failed to take favorable action on the proposal, the citizens are much better informed on the situation, and an alternative plan to solve the problem by public purchase of the isolated places is now being considered.

FLEMING: And then there is the problem of highway costs and maintenance.

WOODWORTH: The land use committees have studied the public finance aspects of town road building and maintenance in various parts of the state. An important problem uncovered is the extremely unequal burden on some towns for road service. That problem is being worked out by the highway department in providing larger State aid to towns of low valuation and hastening the completion of State roads, and through legislative authority providing for the public purchase of isolated problem farms and for the discontinuance of highway maintenance in these isolated places.

FLEMING: Well our radio time is up now, and thank you Mr. Woodworth for coming down to give us some of the highlights of agricultural planning and action in New Hampshire. . . For the information of our listeners on the Colonial Network, next Wednesday at this same time, Mr. Stacy Miller, who is Land Use Planning Specialist in Maine is coming down from Orono to discuss agricultural planning and action in that State.

Radio Script, Colonial Network, September 24, by Phil Fleming, of the New England Radio News Service and Stacy R. Miller, Maine Land Use Planning Specialist for the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, U. S. Department of Agriculture.

AGRICULTURAL PLANNING IN MAINE

FLEMING: Coming up today is Chapter Number Four in our series of radio discussions of agricultural planning in New England. Last Wednesday, Mr. Woodworth of New Hampshire discussed agricultural planning, research, and action in New Hampshire. . . problems of production for national defense. . . the development of pasture improvement programs. . . the way in which the difficulties of declining areas are being attacked. . . Today, Mr. Stacy R. Miller has come down from Orono, Maine, to tell us about agricultural planning, research, and action in that State. . . Stacy, how goes the food-for-defense program in Maine?

At the moment, Phil, our big fall potato harvest is under way in Aroostock County. The crop is practically the same size this year as last, but prices are a little higher, and the total income of the potato growers will probably be larger. We are anticipating some difficulty in getting farm labor particularly for the potato harvest.

FLEMING: Milk and eggs?

MILLER: Production of both milk and eggs in Maine has been running a little larger this year than last. Prices have been higher, but the costs of production also have gone up.

FLEMING: That's pretty much the situation everywhere - higher prices and higher costs - but with prices and costs in favorable relationship to induce increased production. . . Potatoes, milk, eggs - these are the principal farm commodities you ship out of the State?

MILLER: Yes, and apples. . . We also ship out apples although not nearly so many as we did when we were exporting to Britain.

FLEMING: You know, Stacy, except for the production of potatoes, many people outside of New England regard Maine as the land of the lobster and the cod. . . of beans and brown bread on Saturday night. . . and fried doughnuts at any time. . . They've heard about the rock-bound coast of Maine with its quaint fishing villages and popular summer resorts.

LESTER: Electricity was No. 1 on the list of needs. And the reason is that rural people believe that electricity contributes greatly toward a high level of living, because of the many conveniences which electricity makes possible.

FLEMING: No. 2?

LESTER: Conveniences within the home - running water and bathrooms were second and fourth on the list.

FLEMING: I suppose that improved roads were high on the list.

LESTER: Improved roads and improved schools - factors which require action of a civil division such as the town or incorporated village - were in third and sixth place respectively. Off-farm employment ranked in fifth place. Other needs include better sanitation, recreational facilities, medical service, fire protection, and so on, down through lower taxes, improved town finances, and the like.

FLEMING: Just a few of those items sound to me as offering a full-time job for some of your action and administrative agencies. Tell us about some of their work.

LESTER: One of the first big jobs tackled was the subject of general property taxes. Through a series of meetings, rural people were acquainted with a tax policy recently adopted by the various agricultural organizations in the State.

FLEMING: What happened as a result?

LESTER: As a result of them rural people were so well informed of the policy. . . a policy which aimed at lowering general property taxes. . . that several new laws were passed by the Legislature.

FLEMING: Now, as I understand it, a good deal of your planning work has been at the community level.

LESTER: Yes, by the farm men and women themselves in working out their local problems.

FLEMING: Then you also have the county planning committees composed of farm people and representatives of the various State and Federal research and action agencies.

LESTER: County planning committees have been organized in 12 of the counties in Maine. This coming year special emphasis is to be given to developing county planning activities. The need for more closely organized county committees is clearly recognized.

It is anticipated that these committees will give first consideration to local phases of problems of an emergency nature, such as those concerning farm labor and the shortage of concentrated feed needed to increase the production of milk and eggs in the food-for-defense program. These committees will deal also with long-term problems associated with submarginal farm areas in the State and the public service costs in sparsely settled regions.

And then you have your State planning committee with its various sub-committees working on both immediate and long-term problems. . . . And your Joint Land-Grant College-State Committee engaged in economic and social research. . . . Thank you, Stacy, for telling us about the planning and action programs in Maine. . . . And now for our listeners on the Colonial Network. . . . Next Wednesday at 11:00 a.m. Dr. Frederick L. Cole, who is the Bureau of Agricultural Economics representative for Massachusetts will be here from Amherst for a discussion of agricultural planning, research, and action in Massachusetts. Until then

Colonial Network, October 1, by Phil Fleming of the
Radio News Service and W. S. Middaugh, Regional Representative
of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, U. S. Department of Agriculture.

AGRICULTURAL PLANNING IN MASSACHUSETTS

PHIL FLEMING: Last Wednesday at this time, Stacy Miller of Orono, Maine, was here discussing some of the highlights of agricultural planning and action in the Pine Tree State. He told us about the changes which have occurred in the agriculture of Maine through the years, and of the needs expressed by the people themselves in these troubled times to improve the physical condition of the land, and the economic and social condition of the people on the land. . . Today, Fred Cole, the Bureau of Agricultural Economics representative for Massachusetts, was to have come over from Amherst to tell us about the latest developments in the planning and action programs in Massachusetts. Wes Middaugh, the Regional BAE Representative for the Northeast is in Boston and is taking Fred's place. Last week Wes was in New York taking part in a big regional conference on the Nation's food-for-defense program. Wes, can you give us some of the highlights of that conference?

MIDDAUGH: The big thing, Phil, is the need for increased production of the protective foods. We need to increase greatly our production of dairy and poultry products, as well as the production of meats, vegetables, and other foods.

FLEMING: That means increased production of milk and eggs in New England?

MIDDAUGH: Yes. New England produces only a limited quantity of factured dairy and poultry products, but it produces large quantities of milk and eggs. . . and there's an enormously increased demand for these products.

FLEMING: That's because, I suppose, of the great increase in employment in the defense industries in this area.

MIDDAUGH: Yes, and besides - in Massachusetts alone - there are large purchases of foods by the Army camps - Camp Edwards and Camp Devens. Our production of milk and eggs is somewhat larger this year than last, but even larger quantities are called for during the coming year.

FLEMING: Now, Wes, I understand that recently the Massachusetts Rural

Policy Committee drew up a unified program for the rural areas of Massachusetts, and that this program covers the agricultural planning and the action needed in this area to meet the conditions arising out of the war, and the conditions which are likely to arise after the war.

MR. BAUGH:

That report was based largely upon the work of the township and county rural policy committees which have been functioning in Massachusetts the last three years. . . . committees composed largely of the farm people assisted by technical and administrative representatives of State and Federal Government.

MR. BAUGH:

We've been told about some of the work of these committees in previous broadcasts on the Colonial Network. . . . I recall, there are more than fifty township agricultural planning committees in Massachusetts. . . . and four county committees.

That's right, county committees in Essex, Bristol, Franklin and Barnstable. This coming year we expect to have county committees in Worcester and Berkshire, also. . . . possibly a committee in Norfolk. . . . So far, in three years, we've had town meetings in every county except Franklin, Middlesex, and Hampshire.

MR. BAUGH:

That should give you a pretty good basis for your own action programs all over the State. . . . Now this latest report. That contains some recommendations for action?

MR. BAUGH:

It contains more than seventy recommendations. . . . dealing with every aspect of agriculture related problems. . . . beginning with the use of the land. . . . through problems of credit, conservation, production. . . . to the marketing processes and social welfare of our agricultural people.

That's a pretty comprehensive program. Suppose we take some of those items. . . . the use and the ownership of land, for instance?

We have some figures, Phil, showing that about two out of three farms in Massachusetts are part-time farms. They produce about 3 percent of the total output of dairy, poultry products, fruits, vegetables, and other crops. Many of them are on the outskirts of towns and cities, and are operated largely by factory and other industrial workers.

But then there are the commercial farms in the State.

MR. BAUGH:

Yes, and in good agricultural areas there is considerable adaptable land which is not being used to full advantage.

There are many good farms in the State which, for one reason or another, are not being operated at all. If people really interested in agriculture should be given an opportunity to work these places.

FLAMING: You spoke of farm credit and production

MINDAUGH: The principal watchword there is that while it is necessary for farmers to increase their production as much as possible during the present national emergency, they should not go excessively into debt, or beyond what they can repay in the next two or three years. The State Rural Policy Committee believes, also, that for the long pull young people should be helped to become farm tenants and managers toward ultimate ownership of farms of their own.

FLAMING: Conservation?

MINDAUGH: Under conservation come erosion control and soil conservation, cropping systems, and pastures, noise control, and bank control and flood control. Recommendations in these fields range from programs to study the different problems to the institution of programs seeking to prevent them, at least to reduce flood damage on farms.

FLAMING: And in the field of marketing farm products?

MINDAUGH: Of course, Metropolitan Boston is our big outlet for farm commodities produced in this State. But the facilities here in Boston were built for the marketing of local products long before the outbreak of World War. They simply do not take care of present day needs. The city is congested, there is insufficient space to display goods, and the markets are widely separated. A good deal must be done to modernize this metropolitan marketing system.

FLAMING: You have similar situations in other cities in the State, such as in Springfield. . . Worcester. . . and the like?

MINDAUGH: Yes. But of course in lesser degree. The Bureau of Cultural Economics has been studying the markets all over the East and has made a number of recommendations for improvements. One of the problems is the development of efficient farmer markets in metropolitan areas, and of roadside stands in the country. A big problem in Massachusetts is the distribution of milk. Many of the planning commissions in this State believe there is a good deal of duplication of effort, including the daily picking up of milk at the dairy farms.

FLANNERY: Well, Wes, I can see there are many ramifications of the various recommendations of the State committee. . . . We shan't have time to discuss them all today. But before closing, I wonder if you could give us a brief outline of some of the plans of the rural policy committees for the fall and winter.

MEDDAUGH: Let's begin with Essex County, where a unified program of planning and action has already been worked out. Each county and town committees in Essex will emphasize health and nutrition this fall and winter, along with the coordination of rural activities in the field of defense and business adjustments due to defense activity. Each county committee will hold at least one progress meeting.

FLANNERY: And in Bristol County?

MEDDAUGH: The county committee in Bristol is now completing its final program. The final program will probably have several recommendations emphasizing the opportunities for assistance and guidance for future rural residential development.

FLANNERY: Barnstable and Plymouth?

The committees in both of these counties are planning well-rounded unified rural programs with special emphasis on the impact of defense activities.

FLANNERY: Worcester County?

MEDDAUGH: In Worcester it is hoped that a county committee will get underway this fall. A unified program should be completed by the end of the coming year. Existing town committees will hold progress meetings this fall and winter, and in addition to the towns already organized, it is planned to develop town rural policy committees and reports in six or eight additional towns this coming year.

FLANNERY: Norfolk and Berkshire?

MEDDAUGH: In each of these counties there will be a thorough checking up and follow through on recommendations already made by the town committees. Then it is planned to organize county committees if the Extension Service can find enough resources to permit the work of these committees to proceed speedily and expeditiously.

FLANNERY: And in Hampden County? What goes on there - - -

- This county has planned to develop a county committee and more town rural policy committees during the coming year.
- FLEMING: All of these committees will be busy with the adjustments being made as a result of the defense activity?
- MEDDAUGH: Yes, the Food for Defense Program is of major importance.
- FLEMING: Well, that leaves Franklin, Hampshire, and Middlesex counties.
- MEDDAUGH: If any of these counties should be interested in some rural policy work during this coming year, the Extension Service will be glad to assist them at any time.
- FLEMING: Well, that gives us a fairly rounded picture. . . And I want to thank you, Wes, in behalf of our Colonial Network listeners for this discussion of agricultural planning and action in Massachusetts. . . Next Wednesday, at this same time, our schedule calls for a discussion of agricultural planning and action in Vermont. Our guest speaker at that time will be Harry R. Varney of Burlington, the BAE representative for Vermont.

Radio Script ~ Colonial Network ~ October '8. Phil Fleming of the New England Radio News Service, and Harry Varney, Vermont Representative of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics

AGRICULTURAL PLANNING IN VERMONT

FLEMING: Last Wednesday at this time, Wessels Middaugh was telling us about agricultural planning and action programs in Massachusetts. He told us about the food-for-defense program and of the increased needs for the production of milk, eggs, and other products. . . and of the ways in which Massachusetts farmers are planning to meet the impacts of the war and the conditions to follow after the war. . . . Today, Harry Varney of Burlington, Vermont. . . representative of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics in that State. . . is here to give us some of the highlights of agricultural planning and action in Vermont. . . Harry, you and some of the farmer-members of the Vermont Agricultural Planning Committee were at the recent regional agricultural defense conference in New York. . .

VARNY: Yes. . . That conference was called by the Secretary of Agriculture to develop ways and means of increasing agricultural production during the coming year. . . to consider the National goals for agricultural production in 1942. . . goals calling for increased production of milk, eggs and other products all over the United States in 1942. . . and in New England and other eastern States.

FLEMING: Vermont plays a large part in that picture?

VARNY: About 65 to 70 percent of the total cash farm income in Vermont is from the sale of milk. . . About 12 percent from the sale of cull or surplus dairy cattle and calves, the remainder from poultry and eggs, potatoes, apples, maple syrup and sugar, and other woodland products.

FLEMING: Total farm income in Vermont will be higher this year than last?

VARNY: About two million dollars higher. . . And a good part of that increase is from higher production and prices of milk. . . But of course, we've had a tight labor supply situation this year. . . and a pretty serious drought. . . and costs of production generally have increased.

Now, as I understand it, the various National goals for farm production in 1942 are being broken down into State and county goals.

Yes. . . And at our various agricultural planning meetings in Vermont this fall and winter these production goals, and the ways and means of attaining them. . . will come in for a good deal of discussion.

Discussions that will include. . . no doubt. . . a number of other situations in agricultural planning. . . dealing with the economic and social welfare of the farm people.

VALENT: Besides the goals for farm production during the coming year, there'll be some lively discussions dealing with the farm labor situation. . . with taxes. . . with the forestry situation. There are problems in erosion control to be discussed. . . problems in pasture and cropland improvement. . . in farm abandonment. . . in health and other insurance services for farm people.

And those discussions at township planning meetings lead to programs of action going up through the county planning committees. . . and it is at these levels. . . the State and county levels. . . the various State and Federal action agencies come into the picture.

VALENTY: And going on all the while are a number of research studies and cooperative programs by the Vermont agricultural experiment station. . . and the extension of that work, out through the Vermont Extension Service, to the farm people.

FLANNERY: I've seen some of the recent reports on these various lines of research, planning and action in Vermont. . . and they make a sizable volume. . . Unified Programs for Agriculture in Caledonia and Chittenden counties. . . Pasture Improvement in Chittenden County under the Agricultural Conservation Program. . . Land Use Planning committee reports in Rutland and Essex counties. . . A Study of Tree Planting in Vermont under the Agricultural Conservation Program. . . and so on.

One of the earliest activities in land use planning was a classification of all the land in the State. . . by the farmers themselves cooperating with workers from the Experiment Station. . . to determine whether the best use is being made of the land. . . and to discover ways of better use to benefit not only the rural people but the urban and industrial people as well. Agricultural planning deals not only with the physical use of the land. . . it deals also with

the economic and social condition of the people of the land, and the effect of this upon the whole community.

FLEMING:

Now in this series of radio discussions on agricultural planning and action in New England, we've been giving a good deal of attention to the reports of the State committees dealing with the situation and the needs of farmers in meeting the conditions arising out of World War II and our defense programs.

In every case, Phil. . . in Vermont, as well as the other States. . . these reports have come out of the cooperative work of the farm people in conjunction with the research and action agencies. . . through agricultural planning.

And I see you have a copy of the Vermont report with you. . . Suppose we run through that report. . . for as much as our remaining radio time will allow.

This Vermont report contains a number of recommendations covering a dozen or more situations. . . from surplus removal and production control. . . forestry and highways. . . taxes and prices. . . farm abandonment. . . dairy production and marketing. . . and the like.

FLEMING:

You listed dairy production and marketing. . .

VARNNEY:

As I indicated at the beginning of this radio discussion, the dairy is the most important source of income in Vermont. Although all of the farm management studies made by the State Agricultural College indicate that relatively high milk production is extremely important - indeed necessary - for efficient and profitable farm operation, the average annual production per cow in Vermont as a whole is only about 5,000 pounds. . . Most of the milk produced in the State is sold in either the New York or the Boston markets. Both of these markets are operating under Federal Milk Marketing Orders which provide classified price plans and market-wide equalization. Smaller quantities of milk are sold in local markets and in southern New England cities such as Springfield, Lowell and Lawrence.

FLEMING:

Doubtless many of our city listeners will be astonished to learn that a part of their milk supply is dependent upon conditions in Vermont. . . Does the Vermont committee recommend that these Federal Marketing Orders you mentioned should be continued?

Yes. . . But the committee also recommended that the orders be amended to provide for automatic increases and decreases in the price of milk in response to changing economic conditions. . . It recommended, too, that a class for milk made into cheese be provided in the Boston Marketing Order.

PLANNING: Any other recommendations on milk?

VAINEY: The Committee recommended. . . among other things, that more emphasis be placed on the quality of the milk when it reaches the creamery than on barn inspection at the hour of arrival at the creamery. . . And that dairymen be given at least a six-months advance notice when changes in milk inspection requirements are contemplated.

Didn't the Vermont Legislature recently make some provision for dairy herd improvement association work?

Yes. . . the legislature provided for increased facilities for that work. . . And the State Planning Committee is urging dairy farmers in the State to take advantage of that by joining an association and using it to increase the production of their herds, and to lower the costs of production.

PLANNING: We won't have time this morning to discuss all of the recommendations covering the other situations you mentioned: taxes. . . and highways. . . and the like. But that question of farm abandonment. . . that's a situation of vital concern all over New England.

VAINEY: Farm abandonment is one of the most serious problems facing many towns in Vermont. The chief reason for abandonment is considered to be the change that has come about in agricultural methods and equipment in the last fifty years. The average standard of living also has changed considerably. Today most people want good roads, including winter roads, electricity. . . and good schools. Many farms have been abandoned because of the lack of these facilities, and many others, because of burned buildings. Every farm that is abandoned puts an additional tax burden on the farmers who are left in the town.

Any recommendations dealing with that situation?

VAINEY: The State committee has recommended that every encouragement be given city residents to locate summer homes in areas suited to agriculture. It recommended, also, that the State

Publicity Service and the local Chambers of Commerce cooperate in bringing this about, by advertising Vermont possibilities and making available to prospective buyers lists of farms for sale. It recommended, too, that electric service be made available at a reasonable price to all areas suitable for farming. . . Incidentally, I should mention that there are now two Rural Electrification Administration cooperatives in the state. A number of additional line extensions are to be put into operation during the coming year.

FLEMING:

Well, I see our time is up now, Harry. . . But I want you to promise that you'll come down again from Burlington to give us more details regarding some of the other situations in Vermont. . . And to the listeners on the Colonial Network next Wednesday at this same time Bradford Crossman, who is extension leader in agricultural planning in Connecticut is coming up from Storrs to discuss agricultural planning and action in Connecticut. . . Until then -

Radio Script - Colonial Network - October 15. Phil Fleming of the England Radio News Service, and Bradford Crossmon, Extension Leader in Agricultural Planning in Connecticut.

AGRICULTURAL PLANNING IN CONNECTICUT

- FLEMING: Today we present for our listeners on the Colonial Network the seventh - and last - of a series of weekly radio discussions on agricultural planning in New England. Last Wednesday at this time, Harry Varney told us about agricultural research, planning and action programs in Vermont and of the ways in which the farm people and the various State and Federal agencies are cooperating to improve economic and social conditions in Vermont. . . Today, Bradford Crossmon, who is extension leader in agricultural planning in Connecticut is here to tell us about the agricultural research, planning, and action programs in that State. . . Brad. . . of course the big thing in the news just now is the food-for-freedom campaign in which farmers are cooperating to increase the production of milk, eggs, meats and other products during the coming year.
- CROSSMON: Yes. . . the question of increased production of these foods already has come up for discussion at two of our State agricultural planning meetings. . . Connecticut, as you know, Phil, is virtually an arsenal in the national defense program. . . By the summer of 1941, the State's defense production contracts of over 500 million dollars meant more in dollars per capita than in any other state. There's been an increase of over 20 percent in the number of non-agricultural workers in the State during the past year.
- FLEMING: And that means an increase in the consumer demand for food in Connecticut.
- CROSSMON: But don't overlook, Phil, that a good many of these industrial workers have been drawn from Connecticut farms. . . And that means fewer farm people to produce the increased quantities of food. . . Even so, at our recent planning meetings Connecticut farmers stated that they will cooperate in the national program to meet the increased demand for farm products.
- FLEMING: I've just been looking at some of the farm production goals for 1942. For all of New England these goals call for an increase of about 5 percent in the production of milk, and about 8 percent in the output of eggs during the coming year. Do you have the figures for Connecticut?

CROSSMAN: Although Secretary Wickard only requested an increase for Connecticut of 4 percent in production of milk and 3 percent in the output of eggs. . . farmers at the State Agricultural Planning meeting doubted if this would be enough for domestic needs. They agreed that Connecticut should endeavor to take care of its fluid milk needs and could increase its egg production by 10 percent in 1942 over 1941.

FLEMING: And to get these increases. . . will farmers be advised to feed heavier?

CROSSMAN: That is only one farm adjustment. Every farmer can discuss his production problem with a neighboring Agricultural Conservation Program committeeman. These committeemen are being informed on farm adjustments at training schools conducted by County ACP and Extension Service leaders this month. The Connecticut Extension Service is preparing a leaflet for immediate distribution to all farmers, indicating the expected demand for farm products and the importance of changes in the prices of products sold in relation to changes in costs. Indications are that price relationships will continue favorable for increased production of milk and eggs during the coming year.

FLEMING: Well, and, . . . this food-for-freedom campaign is pretty closely with the Agricultural Planning Program of the last few years. . . plan to increase the efficiency of agriculture in Connecticut so that we can be living for the farm people. . . and to contribute more to welfare of the whole community. . . of farm and city people alike.

CROSSMAN: Yes. . . we have our agricultural planning and action program at both the county and State levels. . . programs in which farmers and a number of Federal and State agricultural agencies including the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station and Extension Service - are cooperating. There are about 10,000 commercial farmers in Connecticut. . . Practically all of them have been cooperating in the Agricultural Conservation Program.

FLEMING: As I understand it, many of these farmers are cooperating in pasture improvement programs and in the adoption of soil-building practices.

CROSSMAN: And in the building of farm woodlots. One of our big problems right now is to guard against wasteful practices in this defense effort. . . that would deplete the soil, or deplete the forests. Besides the effort being made now to increase farm production, we must have in mind also the conditions which are likely to arise after the war.

FLEMING:

That question of farm woodlots. . . You were telling me this morning, Brad. . . about a bill the Connecticut Legislature passed this year to provide for forestry planting stock?

CROSSLAND:

That action by the State Legislature was largely the result of the work of a subcommittee of the State Agricultural Planning Committee. The law authorizes the State forester to make contracts with Connecticut nurserymen for the purchase of two year old seedlings to be transplanted to State property and later sold to Connecticut farmers. A revolving fund has been set up for this purpose. The law also permits Connecticut nurserymen to buy stock from out of the State for delivery under contract to the State forester. . . In this way, it is hoped that the needs of farmers for nursery stock under the Agricultural Conservation Program will be met. . . It is expected that during the next few years the State forester will place contracts with nurserymen for the purchase of approximately a million trees.

FLEMING:

Now, Brad. . . these agricultural planning committees. . . the membership consists principally of farmers?

That's correct. The State agricultural planning committee has fifteen farm men and women representing all of the counties in Connecticut. . . Besides, there are county committees for the counties of Hartford, Litchfield, New London, and Windham. These county committees also have a majority of farmer membership.

FLEMING:

And then there are subcommittees of the State Committee to deal with special problems?

CROSSLAND:

Subcommittees dealing with special problems such as rural health and nutrition. . . and with the farm labor situation.

FLEMING:

How are conditions now on the farm labor front?

CROSSLAND:

Right now the seasonal demand for farm labor is declining. . . but there is a definite shortage of experienced agricultural labor. It was only through the cooperation of many agencies in the State. . . notably the State Farm Labor Committee, the State Employment Service, and the public schools. . . that we were able to get in the crops this summer. This farm labor situation is a continuing problem to which all of the public agencies must give increasing attention during the coming year.

FLEMING:

You also said there was a subcommittee on health and nutrition.

CROSSMAN:

Yes. . . the large number of rejections of farm and city people from selective service has been quite a shock to many and it's awakened many public agencies in the State to the need for better health and nutrition in both rural and urban communities.

FLEMING:

The agricultural planning committees are giving a good deal of attention to that problem?

CROSSMAN:

Considerable attention. . . Many agencies appreciate as never before the need for a united program to improve the health of our rural people. . . possibly through an extension of the Food Stamp Plan, low-cost milk, and school lunch programs. There is urgent need for better medical and dental facilities in rural communities. . . Studies should be made of the possibilities of group plans for hospitalization. The development of health and nutrition programs calls for the active cooperation of many agencies including community planning committees, town health councils, youth organizations, parent-teachers associations and the like.

CROSSMAN:

Of course, Brad, there are many ramifications of these problems of conservation and production and health. . . and we won't have time in this brief broadcast to discuss all of them. . . But I notice you have stressed especially the matter of cooperation among the various public agencies - local, State and Federal agencies - and the farm people - in planning and action programs.

CROSSMAN:

Yes, I believe that agricultural planning has developed a better understanding of the need for cooperative action in attacking common problems - the need for agreement as to the action desired in dealing with these common problems. . . and for cooperation among the various action agencies in putting concerted programs into effect.

FLEMING:

And that as I understand it is the underlying purpose of the planning process. . . to bring all agencies together in a united effort to improve the economic and social condition of farm people. Thanks, Brad, for this discussion of research, planning, and action in Connecticut. . . And for our listeners on the Colonial Network I am sure they would want me to extend their appreciation also to all the Bureau of Agricultural Economics representatives who have taken part in this series of weekly broadcasts on Agricultural Planning in New England - to Wessels Middaugh, representative for New England. . . To Dr. Basil Gilbert of Rhode Island. . . Harry Woodworth of Massachusetts. . . Stacy Miller of Idaho. . . Harry Harris of Vermont. . . and to you, Bradford Crossman of Connecticut.

Radio Script - Station WGY, Schenectady, N. Y. - September 26. By
G. Emerson Markham of Radio Station WGY and Frank George of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

AGRICULTURAL PLANNING FOR NATIONAL DEFENSE

MARKHAM: (Introduction by Markham). . . Frank, I understand you've just come from an agricultural defense conference of the Department of Agriculture in New York City.

GEORGE: That New York conference, Emerson, was in connection with the farm production programs for 1942. The New York meeting was one of four being held with farmers and farm leaders . . . and the representatives of the various agricultural research, planning and action agencies all over the country. . . to increase the production of food during the coming year.

MARKHAM: Food-for-freedom. . . to meet our own increased needs for food, and for export under the lease-lend program.

GEORGE: Yes. . . and calling especially for increased production of dairy and poultry products, meats, fruits, and vegetables. This New York meeting was a regional meeting dealing with the ways and means of increasing the production of these foods in the Eastern States. . . And in the east the national goals for farm production in 1942 call for an increase of about 5 percent in the production of milk, and about 3 percent in the output of eggs.

MARKHAM: Now these production goals for 1942. . . these goals tie in pretty closely with the subject scheduled for tonight's discussion - Agricultural Planning for National Defense. . . the last year or so.

The national goals for farm production in 1942 have been developed largely on the basis of the farm adjustments which have been made during the last five or six years, and on the cooperative work of the research, planning and action agencies in agriculture.

Three years ago, an arrangement was worked out by the Department of Agriculture and the Land Grant Colleges for the creation of agricultural planning committees so that farmers could take a more active part in the development of agricultural programs.

MARKHAM: . . . In the development of programs?

Yes. . . So that farmers could help in determining the policy. . . and the kinds of programs. . . for agricultural adjustment. This planning process begins on the farms. . . in community groups of farm men and women meeting to consider their local problems. . .

Down at the grass roots, so to speak.

And dealing with problems not only of the use of the land. . . but economic and social problems as well. . . problems affecting farm people and city people. . . At the present time there are more than 7,000 of these community planning groups of farmers all over the United States.

But where does this "determination of policy" come in?

GEORGE: The problems that go beyond community lines are taken up at the _____ county level. . . by county agricultural planning committees. . . And of county planning committees there are more than eighteen hundred all over the United States.

MARKHAM: These county committees have farmer members, too?

The ~~county~~ committees are composed of farmers, technical workers from the land grant colleges, and administrators of various State and Federal agencies - all dealing with agricultural problems.

MARKHAM: Then there are State Agricultural Planning Committees?

There's a State committee in each State, composed of farmers, technical workers and administrators - dealing with agricultural conditions and programs at the State level.

MARKHAM: Then you go up to the Federal level?

GEORGE: Yes. . . through the Inter-Bureau Committees and the Agricultural Program Board of the Department of Agriculture at Washington, on both of which all the separate agencies of the Department can use the ideas of the local committees and can contribute their share to the planning of the Department's work.

MARKHAM: So you have a chain of action that begins with the people on the land, and goes up through the various agencies at County, State, and Federal levels.

GEORGE: A Chain of action that also works down through these various agencies - in effect, a two-way process of planning, programming and action.

MARKHAM: Now, Frank, I understand that among other activities the various State agricultural planning committees have been studying the needs of agriculture in this national defense period. . .

GEORGE: Yes, the Department has made a national summary of that study based upon the work of nearly 800 farm men and women, assisted by more than 1700 administrative and technical workers of State, Department and other Federal agencies. . . The work of the State committees in turn has grown out of two years of work by thousands of members of county agricultural planning committees.

MARKHAM: Yes, I've heard of that national summary.

GEORGE: The topics covered by that report deal with special defense situations. . . They deal with the health and nutrition of farm and city people in this emergency. . . They deal with the farm labor situation. Other topics include soil conservation. . . forestry. . . water and range utilization. . . production, prices, and farm management. . . the marketing and distribution of farm products. . . and agricultural finance.

MARKHAM: That's a pretty comprehensive program.

GEORGE: Recommendations as to special defense situations are that further steps be taken to integrate the nation's agricultural economy with the total defense effort. . . that priorities and price control policies take careful account of the needs of agriculture. . . Additional steps for the coordination of marketing and distribution of farm products are proposed. . . And there's a recommendation relating to public finance. . .

MARKHAM: That last one. . . public finance. . . that should be of interest to our tax-paying listeners.

GEORGE: Last, but not least, Emerson. . . Some of the committees recommended that non-essential spending. . . private and public spending. . . be curbed as much as possible during this emergency. . . They recommended that defense costs be financed through taxation to the fullest extent possible.

MARKHAM: You mentioned farm labor. . . That's an important subject right now in New England.

GEORGE: Yes, the planning committees recognize a farm labor situation unparalleled since World War I. Various recommendations have been made for the development of a unified farm labor

program by Federal, State, and local agencies. . . to inventory farm labor supply and demand by regions or areas. . . and to insure security and desirable working conditions for farm labor. Of course, some of the things these committees proposed have now been done.

MARKHAM: Another subject you mentioned. . . one of considerable interest in this region. . . is production, prices and farm management.

GEORGE: Nearly all the State committees recommended modification of agricultural programs so as to increase the production of foods such as dairy and poultry products. . . and to increase the production of feed for conversion into food.

MARKHAM: Now, that feed situation. . . That's another question which is troubling our eastern farmers this season.

GEORGE: In that connection, Emerson, the planning committees recommended an increase in storage stocks of feed grains Northeast this season. . . and the Commodity Credit Corporation is working on that situation right now. . . arranging for the storage of feed at eastern terminals and on farms.

MARKHAM: Prices. . . What about prices?

GEORGE: Regarding prices of feed grains. . . the Commodity Credit Program for feed grain storage in the Northeast includes provisions against speculative price advances. . . In general. . . as to all farm prices. . . many of the State committees indicated that some form of price guarantee or support is desirable for both basic and non-basic crops, and that such guarantees or supports should be adjusted upward as prices paid by farmers move upward.

MARKHAM: That leaves the question of farm management.

GEORGE: In the State reports there was a large group of recommendations dealing with farm management, farm tenancy, land use, and the administration of the action programs of the Department of Agriculture. There was general insistence that the improvement of farm management on small farms. . . And that improvement in tenancy arrangements would give tenants a more secure tenure.

MARKHAM: I believe you mentioned forestry as one of the subjects covered by your planning committees.

GEORGE: Already, the Nation's forests and woodlots are playing a vital role in the defense effort. . . In the great virgin

forests of the Northwest and along the Pacific Coast, the mills are running night and day. . . Local operations are being extended and new areas are being opened. In the older forested and woodlot areas elsewhere in the Nation. . . in the East and the Northeast. . . the impact of increasing demand and rising prices is also apparent.

MARKHAM: And in the east, I understand, there have been suggestions for including the farm woodlot as a part of the agricultural programs.

GEORGE: The State planning committees have recommended that increased attention be given the development and maintenance of the farm woodlot. This was emphasized particularly in the east in view of a possible fuel shortage and rising prices of forest products. . . It was recommended that public agencies administering credit, agricultural adjustment and other programs should give special attention to provisions for planning woodlot development as an integral part of individual farm planning.

MARKHAM: Now one thing more. . . as I see our time is nearly up. . . You mentioned as one of the subjects on your planning program the marketing and distribution of farm products.

GEORGE: The planning committees believe that improvements in marketing are essential in the present and prospective defense situation. Critical conditions appear in prospect as a result of demands upon distribution and marketing systems by the army, the lend-lease program, and by metropolitan areas. Many persons feel that the present transportation facilities are inadequate to meet the needs of an all-out defense program, and that unless new planning is done and action taken now, agriculture will be hampered in its defense efforts.

MARKHAM: Did the committees make some specific recommendations on that account?

GEORGE: There were four recommendations on marketing and transportation. Recommendation No. 1 was for a national system to conserve existing transportation facilities, to arrange for new facilities, and to make possible their most effective use.

MARKHAM: No. 2?

GEORGE: It was recommended that the Department of Agriculture should intensify its efforts towards improvements in the marketing

and distribution system for farm products essential in the defense program. State trade barriers were recognized in many States as obstacles which must be removed.

MARKHAM: No. 3?

GEORGE: Recommendation No. 3 was that the Department's price supporting program should be placed on a flexible basis with proper regard to geographic differences and to the movement of agricultural commodities into channels of consumption.

MARKHAM: And No. 4?

GEORGE: Recommendation No. 4 was that the Federal-State program of grading, inspection, collection and dissemination of market information should be expanded and coordinated, especially as it relates to defense products from farm and forest.

MARKHAM: Well, our time is up now, and I want to thank you, Frank, for giving us some of the highlights of this national agricultural planning report. Some of our listeners may wish to have a copy of that report.

GEORGE: Copies may be obtained by dropping a post card to the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, Washington, D. C. The title of the report is "Agriculture's Plans to Aid in Defense and Meet the Impact of War".

MARKHAM: (Close)

